

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 5 through 16 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 3 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~focusing-information detecting~~ focusing apparatus for executing a focusing calculation according to an image signal sent from a sensor block formed of a plurality of cell units which accumulate image signal components, said apparatus comprising:

a control circuit for controlling an operation for accumulating image signal components in the sensor block;

~~a characteristic determination circuit for monitoring a P-B signal from a first set of the plurality of cell units in the sensor block, after the accumulation operation controlled by said control circuit is finished; and~~

~~a reading processing circuit for performing an operation of (a) applying signal reading processing to the plurality of cell units in response to the monitoring result obtained by said characteristic determination circuit being a predetermined result, and (b) disabling signal reading processing for the plurality of cell units in response to the monitoring result obtained by said characteristic determination circuit being another predetermined result, which is different from the predetermined result, performing a reading processing control of a first accumulated cell unit of said plurality of cell units by said control circuit; and~~

~~wherein every time the operation for accumulating image signal components in the sensor block is finished, the monitoring a P-B signal by said characteristic determination circuit and the operation executed by said reading processing circuit are performed.~~

a changing circuit for changing the reading processing control based on a result of determination of an accumulation condition of said first accumulated cell unit.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A focusing-information detecting focusing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a first set of the plurality of cell units outputs a signal indicating the luminance or the contrast received by the sensor block.

4 - 19. (Cancelled)